

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



**STATEMENT FOR H. E. DR. HAGE G. GEINGOB, PRESIDENT OF
THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA,
AT THE STATE BANQUET ON THE OCCASION OF THE STATE
VISIT BY H. E. BRAHIM GHALI, PRESIDENT OF THE SAHARAWI
ARAB DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC**

MAY 28, 2018

WINDHOEK

Check against delivery

Director of Ceremonies;

Your Excellency, Brahim Ghali, President of the Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic;

The Right Honourable Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, Prime Minister of the Republic of Namibia;

Honourable Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International Relations and Cooperation;

Honourable Speaker of the National Assembly;

Honourable Chairperson of the National Council;

Your Honour, Chief Justice of the Republic of Namibia;

The First Lady of the Republic of Namibia;

Honourable Ministers from the Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic and Namibia;

Honourable Members of Parliament;

Distinguished Service Chiefs;

Your Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic Corps;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

It is a distinct honour and privilege to welcome Your Excellency, President Brahim Ghali, and your entire delegation to Namibia. As this is your first State Visit to Namibia, we are indeed delighted and honoured to have you in our country.

Your visit affords us a unique opportunity to consolidate our fraternal friendship and forge stronger ties in our relentless fight to achieve self-determination and independence for the colonized people of the Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic.

Your Excellency,

Namibia's position on the right to self-determination and independence of the people of Western Sahara has been clear and consistent. Our support for your right to self-determination and independence is a question of principle, and not negotiable.

That is why we fully support Your Excellency's sentiments expressed during the 45th anniversary of the commencement of the Saharawi armed struggle when you said, "The Polisario Front, as the only and legitimate representative of the Saharawi people, is ready to engage in direct negotiations with Morocco, in order to complete the Western Sahara decolonization process and guarantee the Saharawi people's right to self-determination and independence."

The Kingdom of Morocco into the African Union (AU). However, I should emphasize, the Kingdom of Morocco, as a member of the AU is expected to fully comply with the principles, values and obligations enshrined in the Constitutive Act of the AU, and

relevant United Nations resolutions. These include the inalienable right to self-determination and independence. This right is indivisible, it cannot be enjoyed by some and denied to others.

Your Excellency,

The UN referendum for the Western Sahara should be implemented unconditionally and without further delays or prevarications by Morocco. We call on the UN Security Council to live up to its obligation to compel Morocco to cooperate fully with the UN Secretary General's Personal Envoy, Horst Kohler to implement with urgency, the UN Plan for Western Sahara.

The reduction of the mandate of the UN Mission in Western Sahara MINURSO, from one year to only six months, in resolution 2414 of 2018 is concerning, if not disappointing.

Your Excellency,

Africa is well endowed with natural resources. Western Sahara is no exception. We condemn in the strongest terms the plundering of the natural resources of Western Sahara.

Namibia calls upon the international community, especially the Permanent Members of the UN Security Council, to support the

quest for freedom and independence of Western Sahara. African countries must be faithful and fight for total liberation of the continent.

The New Africa that we champion is incomplete without freedom and independence for the courageous people of Western Sahara.

In closing, Namibia reaffirms its unwavering support for, and solidarity with the people of Western Sahara. We will stay the cause behind the principle of the self-determination and independence for the people of Western Sahara.

For as long as the sons and daughters of Western Sahara are denied the freedom to exercise their right to self-determination, we will continue to reaffirm our enduring solidarity with your heroic struggle.

I wish to reiterate our desire to work with you towards the strengthening of the relations and forging ahead in achieving our shared destiny. If Morocco cannot heed our call because we are old, let it listen to the young people.

Let me add by quoting the young children "We the Saharawi children want freedom. We want Independence. Enough with the occupation." Please listen to this call from the young children.

Distinguished Guests,

May I now invite you all to rise and join me in proposing a toast:

- **To continued good health and well-being of His Excellency, President Brahim Ghali;**
- **To the friendship, solidarity and fraternal relations between our countries and peoples.**